

NEWS

Alone we can do so little;

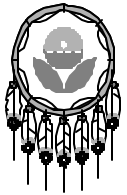
Together we can do so much.

Helen Keller
Happy year 2000

LETTER

Vol. X No. 1
January 1, 2000

EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Work Shops and Conferences

February 22-26 & June 28-July 2, 2000, Hazardous Materials Incident Response Operations (165.5), Washington State Patrol Training Academy Shelton, WA. This course is designed for personnel involved with the investigation and remediation of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and, to a lesser extent, response to an accident involving hazardous materials. For additional information contact Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

March 15-19, 2000, Air Monitoring for Hazardous Materials (165.4), TBA, Seattle, WA. This course instructs participants in the practices and procedures for monitoring and sampling airborne hazardous materials. For additional information contact Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

April 12-16, 2000, 23rd National Indian Timber Symposium, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs, OR. For more information call the Intertribal Timber Council at 503/282-4296

Tribal Publications

The following publications can be obtained free by calling 800/490-9198.

L Title: Tribal Guide to The Section 319(H) Nonpoint Source Grant Program
Order Number: EPA841S94003

L Title: Section 319 Success Stories: Highlights of State and Tribal Nonpoint Source Programs, Volume 2
Order Number: EPA841R97001
L Title: Tribal Nonpoint Source Planning Handbook:
Order Number: EPA841B97004
Title: Tribal Water Utility Management:
Order Number: EPA812B93005
L Title: NPDES

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EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is published monthly at no charge.

To receive a copy call:
AK...Jean.....907/271-6558
ID...Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR...Don.....503/326-5015
WA...Alison.....360/753-8185

Handbook for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes: Order Number: EPA833B94004. **L Title:** Third National Tribal Conference on

Environmental Management: Order Number: EPA530R96052 **L Title:**

Reference Guide to Water Quality Standards for Indian Tribes : Order Number:

EPA440590002 **L Title:** Native American Network, Winter 1998:

Order Number: EPA530N98002

L Title: Recycling Guide For Native American Nations: Order Number: EPA530K95006

L Title: Solid Waste Resource Guide For Native Americans: Where to find Funding and Technical Assistance: Order Number:

EPA530K94002.

Tribal Workshop

EPA Region 10 and the Portland Area Indian

Health Service, with the assistance of our contractor, Skeet Arasmith, are cosponsoring an important tribal utility workshop, entitled "Utility Management for the next Millennium" in Reno, Nevada from March 7-9, 2000. The hotel has yet to be chosen, but will be announced soon. This workshop is designed to assist tribal utility board members, and tribal utility managers in developing effective tribal utility organizations. The agenda will emphasize Management, Financial and Technical aspects of developing a tribal utility with a series of presentations and break out group exercises. An update on the technical assistance program will be provided to acquaint area tribes with the variety of training and technical assistance that is available to them at no charge to support their tribal utility organization.

Discussions will include new changes to drinking water regulations that will affect tribes as well as several important technical issues in running and maintaining an effective tribal utility organization. In addition, we have invited several tribal leaders to

give workshop participants their own perspective of the value of a tribal utility organization to their own tribes, and their development process and success in working with EPA/IHS/ACR in this effort.

Attendance may be limited by available space, so interested participants should contact John Leffel, IHS Utility Consultant, at 206/615-2782 for more information, and to sign up for this informative and very useful workshop. Craig L. Paulsen Drinking Water Unit (OW-136)EPA Region 10
Tel: 206/553-4350 Fax: 206/553-0165

Tribal Safe Drinking Water

EPA Region 10 currently works with 41 Indian tribes to directly implement the drinking water program on Indian Lands. However, individual tribes can obtain program primacy for this EPA program. Assisting tribes to develop their own tribal utility program is the single most effective effort that EPA has done in the 12 years of directly implementing the drinking water program on tribal lands. A viable tribal utility program shows the tribe's investment in its drinking water facilities, the actual cost of treating and delivering safe drinking water to the tap, as well to define the roles and responsibilities of the tribal utility for the tribal residents.

To help develop tribal utility programs, Region 10 and the Portland Indian Health Service sponsor a comprehensive technical assistance program. This technical assistance program is highly successful and serves as a national example of growing tribal capacity and safe drinking water supplies on Indian Lands. It is available to all R10 tribes, as well as non-tribal water systems on Indian Lands. This program is available to all R10 tribes at no charge and offers: circuit rider assistance (operator, management and compliance), hands-on apprentice training, training for operator certification, and workshops on a wide range of technical and management subjects.

In addition, this program assists qualified tribes developing "enterprise"

tribe utility organizations. An enterprise utility organization functions as a business enterprise, although it does not necessarily connote assessment of water user fees if the tribe chooses to identify alternative sources of revenues to fund the utility. This type of utility organization either generates sufficient revenues to support the drinking water system, or is funded by the tribe by means of an alternative dedicated source of funding.

Results of this program include:

1. 87% completion of 1998 tribal Consumer Confidence Reports, compared with compliance levels about half of this for state-regulated water systems.
2. 60% of R10 tribes now have some type of utility board
3. 40% have hired tribal utility managers.
4. 40 of approximately 100 tribal water operators currently certified,
5. 22 others are currently enrolled in our water operator certification training program.

R10 Tribes are committed to provide safe drinking water to their communities and to develop their capacity to ensure that safe drinking remains a part of their plans for the future. And EPA is committed to helping this happen.

Water Information Compendium

In November EPA's Office of Water released the Water Program Systems Compendium FY1998, which provides a road map to the kinds of information available to water program managers as they make policy and program decisions. The information is presented in a

combination of text and graphic profiles for more than 140 information systems on water management. These systems are maintained by EPA's Office of Water, other EPA program offices, federal agencies, and non-government organizations. Additionally, the compendium includes a list of over 200 federal, state, private, academic, and public interest group websites that link to environmental program information as well as to specific information systems and data bases that contain water quality information.

To view the document in its entirety and to find out information about how to order a hard copy, visit the EPA's Office of Water website at <http://www.epa.gov/ow/compendium.html>.

Watershed Grants

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds recently awarded River Network \$300,000 to distribute grants to local watershed partnerships to support organizational development. River Network, a national organization based in Portland, Oregon, supports river and watershed advocates at the local, state, and regional levels to build effective partnerships and organizations. The Watershed Assistance Grants program will distribute grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$30,000 in 2000 Tribal to support watershed partnerships working to protect and restore their watersheds.

To request an application, please write to River Network, Watershed

Assistance Grants Program, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207 or email River Network at info@rivernetwork.org. For additional information on funding opportunities, visit River Network's web site at <http://www.rivernetwork.org/nonprofi.htm>.

Sustainable Development Guide

A step-by-step guide to planning and implementing sustainable actions is available on the internet. The EPA's Green Communities Assistance Kit guides users through a series of steps towards becoming a "Green Community" - a sustainable community that integrates a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a high quality of life. The assistance kit is designed to help communities identify and resolve environmental and economical needs, interests, problems, contains case studies, software tools, frequently asked questions, information on other resources, and more. For more information on the Green Communities Assistance kit, call Susan McDowell at 215/814-2739. For assistance kit: <http://www.epa.gov/region03/greenkit>.

PAYT

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is soliciting educational and information resources from communities that have successfully implemented Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT), a waste management system that charges households based on the amount of trash they discard. PAYT programs can help reduce municipal solid waste costs by providing financial incentives to reduce waste. Specifically, ICMA seeks the following information: news articles, flyers, brochures, newsletters, fact sheets, videos, press releases, surveys, public service announcements, and internet sites. The resources will be used to develop information packets designed to help interested jurisdictions implement PAYT programs. Information and materials should be sent to Jennifer Folta at ICMA, 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 20002. For more information on ICMA's PAYT assistance, call Ms. Folta at 202/962-3554 or send e-mail to jfolta@icma.org.

Landfills Emissions

On November 8, 1999, the EPA promulgated a federal plan to implement emission guideline requirements for municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills that commenced construction prior to May 30, 1991 and have not been modified or reconstructed since that date. Effective on January 7, 2000, the federal plan will only affect MSW landfills located in states or Indian country where state or tribal plans are not currently in effect. At the time a state or tribal plan becomes effective, the federal plan will no longer apply. In a 1996 action, the EPA promulgated emission guidelines for existing MSW landfills. State were required to submit plans for implementation and enforcement of these guidelines. The recently promulgated federal plan would affect those state that have not yet developed plans for more information: <http://www.legan.org/html/regpipeline/eventdetail.cfm?doc=pdf>.

Radon Standards

The EPA's proposed new standards for radon in drinking water will allow states to focus most of their efforts on the greatest public health risks from radon - those in indoor air - while also reducing the risks from radon in drinking water.

EPA's proposal would provide two options to states and water systems for reducing public health risks from radon in both drinking water and indoor air, a unique multimedia framework authorized and outlined in the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Under the first option, states can choose to develop enhanced state programs addressing radon in indoor air in conjunction with individual water systems meeting a drinking water standard of 4,000pCi/L (pico Curies per liter) of water.

As a second option, individual water systems in a state could either reduce radon in their system's to 300pCi/L or develop individual indoor air radon programs and reduce levels in drinking water to 4,000 pCi/L. Water systems already at or below the 300 pCi/L standard will not be required to treat their water for radon.

EPA estimates the costs to states and community water systems for reducing radon in indoor air while implementing the

4,000 pCi/L drinking water standard to be approximately \$86 million a year. Treating drinking water from all community ground water sources to 300 pCi/L would costs states and systems about \$407 million a year.

The proposed drinking water standards would apply only to community water systems that use ground water or mixed ground and surface water as a drinking water source, and that regularly serve 25 or more people or have at least 15 year round service connections.

Aeration of water to promote the release of radon is very effective and one of the more affordable water treatment technologies available, EPA said.

In 1988, the U.S. Surgeon General recommended that all homes in the United States be tested for radon in indoor air and those with elevated levels be fixed. Since that time, EPA has been working with state and local governments, and with public health organizations at the national, state, and local level to encourage the public to test for radon, fix high levels, and build new homes with radon-resistant techniques. The National Academy of Sciences, in a 1999 report, urged people who had not had their homes tested for radon in indoor air to do so.

In developing its radon proposal, EPA sought extensive input from the states, local water systems, environmental groups, and the general public in a series of public meeting across the nation over the past two years.

EPA is soliciting formal comment by publishing the proposed regulations in the federal Register for review for 60 days. The proposed regulations also will be posted on EPA's drinking water web at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> on the Internet. The regulations are scheduled to be finalized in August 2000.

Tribal Operations Committee

Elections of the Tribal Caucus of the Tribla Operations Committee were held on December 6, 1999 at the Tribal Caucus/Goal Team Leaders meeting in Washington D.C.

Congratulations to Calvin E. Murphy, *Easter Band of Cherokee Indians*, **Chairman**, Latane Donelin, *Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation of Kansas*, **Vice**

Chairman, and Nancy John, *Cherokee Nation*, **Secretary**.

The officers are EPA's environmental co-regulators who provide input into EPA "operational" decision-making affecting Indian Country. They will continue to work on a regular basis with AIEO to oversee the implementation of the EPA Indian Policy and develop policy and guidance for EPA to provide environmental protection of Indian Tribes. Following is a list of the Region 10 Tribal Caucus Members for you information. Alvin D. Osterback, *Qagan Tayagungin Tribe* (907/383-5616), Paul Erhard, *Tanana Tribal Council* (907/366-7170), Gwendolyn Carter, *Nez Perce Tribe* (208/843-7368), and Bob Kelly, *Nooksack Indian Tribe* (360/592-5176). Alternates for Region 10 are: Carrie Sykes, *Central Council of Tlingit and Haida* (800/344-1432 x3087), Jennifer Curtis, *Maniilaq Association* (907/442-3311), and Georgia George Rye, *Suquamish Tribe* (360/598-3311).

New Office

The new Office of Environmental Information will play a key role in supporting the EPA's mission to enhance public health and environmental protection by working to improve the way EPA collects, manages, integrates, and provide access to environmental information. Working with state and tribal partners and stakeholders, EPA will strive to make data useful for informing decisions, improving information management, documenting performance, reducing reporting burdens, measuring success and enhancing public access. Management and staff of the Office of Environmental Information will be reaching out to build partnerships with other Agency offices over the coming months.

The establishment of the Office of Environmental Information is part of a new and creative approach to information creation, management and use. In addition to working on data collection, information quality and integration, burden reduction, technology improvement and public access, the Office will be involved in new information initiatives in the future.

Margaret Schneider will be temporary administrator.

Emergency Planning Software

A new web site is available that provides, and assists users in the use of emergency planning software. Developed by EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the CAMEO

web site provides information on computer aided management of emergency operations (CAMEO) software, a system of software applications used widely by local emergency planning committees, firefighters, environmental organizations, schools, and others to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Local governments can use CAMEO to access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency

plans. In addition to providing free software, the web site helps users improve CAMEO skills, contact other CAMEO users and instructors, learn how others have successfully used CAMEO, find out about upcoming CAMEO events, and find answers to technical questions. To go to CAMEO Website, click on: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo/index.htm>.

Public Service Announcements

EPA has created a series of public service announcements that water suppliers and others may use to let consumers know about new information that is available on their tap water. The announcements are available in print, radio (available on CDs), and highlight the availability of consumer confidence reports (sometimes called water quality reports or right-to-know reports). To order free copies of the announcements, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800/426-4791. To view the print ads, or to hear a real audio version of the radio ads, click on the following: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/psa.html>.

Wastewater Treatment Booklet

A booklet about wastewater treatment titled "Clean Water for Today: What is Wastewater Treatment?" is now available from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC). Published by the Water Environment federation, this 18-page booklet gives a general description of typical wastewater treatment plant processes. Important issues that affect treatment plants are also described. The topics discussed include primary and secondary treatment, physical and biological processes, typical treatment trains sludge handling, plant management, monitoring and permitting requirements, and inflow and infiltration. The booklet could serve as a resource for local and state officials and the general public.

The cost is \$1.00. To order, call the NSFC at 800/624-8301 and ask for item #WWBLPE44. Shipping and handling charges apply to all orders.

Pesticides

For information about ongoing activities in the Office of Pesticide Programs, visit their homepage at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>, or call or write them directly at: Communication Services Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs (5606C), US Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460.

Water-Use Data

The latest water-use data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey now available in PDF format through the survey's web page. The report, announced previously, showed a continuing decline in water use nationally from the 1980 peak.

Data include national consumption and breakdowns by counties and watershed within each state. The five year report contains data through 1995. The address for the page is www.usgs.gov/wateruse. Links connect to various types of data on water consumption.

Oregon

3The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw have a web site for accessing information about the tribe at: www.ucine.com/~clustribe.

3Thomas Morning Owl was elected as the new chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. Welcome

3Dan Opalski, the New Director for the EPA's Oregon Operations Office, and Clarence Ortman, Tribal coordinator, attended meetings With the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. These meetings gave Dan a chance to see some of the state he just moved to and to meet members of the Tribal Council. He also met staff members, who discussed environmental concerns and gave him a tour of their facilities.

Washington

Several EPA staff traveled to the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Center December 14th to participate in the Tribal Environmental signing ceremony. This Ceremony comes at the end of a very eventful year for the Tribal Environmental staff. Julie Hagensen (right), WOO Director presented Tribal Chairman Herbert "Ike" Whitish (left)

and Environmental program Director Gary Burns a certificate of appreciation from EPA recognizing their continuing commitment to a healthier environment on and near the Shoalwater Bay reservation. Chairman Whitish presented Regional Administrator Chuck Clarke (center) with a hand drum that he made with the Shoalwater Bay artwork on it. Following the signing ceremony the Tribe provided a wonderful luncheon of salmon, crab, oysters, salads, and berry cobbler. The TEA signing is especially important for the Shoalwater Bay Tribe considering the environmental and human issues there.

